United Nations system CEB/2007/2

Chief Executives Board for Coordination

5 December 2007

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Second regular session of 2007
New York, 26 October 2007

Summary of conclusions

I. Introduction

1. The second regular session of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2007, chaired by the Secretary-General, was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, on the morning of Friday, 26 October 2007.

2. The Board met in a private session that afternoon to exchange views on current developments, including in relation to current political developments and developments in the world economy.

3. The Board held its retreat at the Greentree Foundation on the evening of Friday, 26 October, and on Saturday, 27 October. It took up the review of its role and functioning as well as the role of the United Nations system in the area of climate change. CEB deferred its consideration of new approaches on ethics in the United Nations system to its retreat.

4. The present report covers the outcome of the second regular session of CEB for 2007.

Agenda

5. The Board adopted the following agenda for its regular session:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Programme issues.
   - (a) Evaluation process for the "one UN" pilot projects;
   - (b) Support to African development;
   - (c) Leading by example: a climate-neutral United Nations.
3. Management issues.
   - (a) Harmonization of United Nations system business practices;

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(b) Disclosure of information contained in internal audit reports;

(c) Recent developments in ethics.

4. Other matters.

(a) A system-wide human rights advocacy campaign in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

Opening of the session

6. The Secretary-General opened the session and welcomed CEB members. Since taking office, he had become more familiar with the range and diversity of perspectives that the United Nations system organizations represented. He was consistently impressed by the dynamic leadership of CEB members in their respective areas, and thanked them for their support. It was clear that an effective CEB was needed to bring together the various strengths inherent in the system in a spirit of teamwork, and he looked forward to working further with all executive heads to this end.

7. On behalf of the Board, the Secretary-General welcomed Robert Zoellick, President of the World Bank; Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs; Konrad Osterwalder, Rector of the United Nations University; and Abdoulie Janneh, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission and the current Coordinator of the regional commissions. He expressed the gratitude of the Board to Rodrigo de Rato, outgoing Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and asked Murillo Portugal, Deputy Managing Director of IMF to convey the sentiments of the Board to Mr. de Rato, who was shortly to step down as Managing Director of IMF. Mr. de Rato had enriched the CEB discussions with his insightful contributions and friendship. The Secretary-General was also looking forward to working closely with his successor, Dominique Strauss-Kahn.

II. Programme issues

8. The Chairman of the High-level Committee on Programmes, Lennart Bage, briefed CEB on the work of the Committee at its fourteenth session, held in Palisades, New York, on 20 and 21 September 2007. In introducing the report, he noted that the Committee had addressed a number of substantive issues, including those that had been brought forth for the consideration of CEB.

9. The Committee had undertaken preparations for CEB discussions on the issue of the response of the United Nations system to climate change and preparations for the Bali Conference in December. The Chairman, as tasked by CEB in April, had convened a consultation in Rome on 29 June, which had been attended by a number of executive heads and senior officials. The meeting called for the development of an overview document of system activities in response to climate change, as well as an approach paper that would provide a basis for the elaboration of a system-wide strategy. The Chairman of the Committee noted that these two documents — the overview and the approach papers — would be discussed by CEB at its retreat.

10. The Committee had also taken up the issue of a climate-neutral United Nations, based on the work being undertaken under the leadership of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environmental Programme and the Environment Management Group. This matter had been addressed both by the High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on Management. While both Committees expressed broad support for the principle of a climate-neutral United Nations, they felt that further work was required to address the feasibility of the approach proposed. The issue was subsequently considered by the Environmental Management Group on 8 October in preparation for the CEB session, and a revised CEB statement was before the Board for its endorsement.

11. The Chairman noted that the High-level Committee on Programmes had had a very good and rich discussion on support to African development. It was stressed that Africa required a full and comprehensive response from the United Nations system. There was a need for coordination among the number of initiatives under way to avoid gaps and overlaps, and to capture synergies. In particular, the Committee felt that the announcement by the Secretary-General of the Africa Millennium Development Goals Steering Group was of great importance, and that it was therefore key for CEB to examine the implications for the system's work.

12. He also recalled that, in April, CEB had asked the United Nations Evaluation Group to urgently establish a process for the evaluation of the one UN pilots. In response, the Group had prepared an approach that called for a three-stage process, with the first major output to be an assessment of the evaluability of the "Delivering as one" initiative by March 2008. The second, a process evaluation of the pilot project experience, was anticipated by September 2009, and the final output, an evaluation of the results and impacts of the pilots, would be provided in 2011. The High-level Committee on Programmes had endorsed the approach but urged the United Nations Evaluation Group to accelerate the timeline.

13. CEB members were requested to endorse the proposed scope and process of the evaluation, and encouraged to join the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in providing direct funding for the evaluation.

14. On the other items taken up by the Committee, the Chairman noted that it had agreed to recommend the approval of a CEB cluster on trade and productive capacity and had also noted with satisfaction the progress under the leadership of the International Labour Organization (ILO) with regard to the toolkit on employment. It also welcomed the work by the three bodies it had established — UN-Energy, UN-Water and UN-Oceans.

15. The Committee had expressed appreciation for the leadership of Mats Karlsson as Chairman of UN-Energy, and welcomed the nomination of Kandeh Yumkella, Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), to succeed him for the 2008-2009 biennium, with Olav Kjorven of UNDP as Vice-Chairman. The nomination was before CEB for its endorsement.

16. The Committee had also taken up the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into United Nations development policies and practices, and would be reverting to a consideration of this matter in depth at its next session. The Committee also

provided guidance on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

17. Finally, the High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on Management met in joint session and had a first discussion on the CEB review process. This matter would be pursued further at the CEB retreat.

18. The Secretary-General, on behalf of CEB, expressed appreciation for Mr. Bage's leadership of the High-level Committee on Programmes.

A. Evaluation process for the one UN pilot projects

19. The Deputy-Secretary-General considered it critical, while establishing and supporting the rigorous evaluation process proposed by the United Nations Evaluation Group, to obtain a quick indication of how the one UN pilots were functioning. She was working with the Chairman of the United Nations Development Group and the group of 10 organizations that were overseeing the pilots to launch a stocktaking exercise. In this regard, the eight pilot Governments would be asked for initial information on the anticipated benefits and impact on national ownership so far, which would complement feedback from country teams. This would provide an input to the intergovernmental debate on United Nations system-wide coherence.

20. CEB members welcomed the initiative of the Deputy-Secretary-General, and underlined the difference between the assessment of the process and the evaluation of the development results. It was recalled that the original recommendation by the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence for the "One UN" pilots was based on the view that the actual practitioners on the ground should test out the ideas being proposed under "Delivering as one" at the country level. A quick assessment of the process was needed to get a sense of what the best practices were. This initiative should be completed by the end of the year, in order to feed into the intergovernmental process in the General Assembly.

21. It was noted that Member States agreed that the triennial comprehensive policy review was the central intergovernmental process for the governance of operational activities for the United Nations system. It was likely that the new triennial comprehensive policy review resolution would provide the legislative framework for the "One UN" pilot projects.

22. The Board generally supported the proposed scope and process for the evaluation to be undertaken by UNEG, stressed the desirability of members providing direct funding for the evaluation and requested UNDG to consider positively the need of UNEG for immediate funding. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), ILO and the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that they were joining FAO, UNDP and UNICEF in providing direct funding to UNEG. UNEG was requested, however, to review its timeline with an aim to issuing the evaluation of the results and impacts of the pilot experience by 2010.

23. Several members pointed out the importance of having the process encompass a 360-degree assessment, including not just the Government and the country team, but also the beneficiaries, partner agencies and donors. Further, it was important to

ensure that all Government counterparts to CEB members were included in the assessment.

24. Some executive heads expressed the view that coherence efforts at the country level must take into account the contributions of non-resident agencies. They expressed the desire to work collaboratively with resident coordinators and country teams to ensure that their contributions formed an integral part of the "Delivering as one" approach. Several of the smaller non-resident agencies would write to the UNDP administrator with practical suggestions for improvements. It was also pointed out that some Member States had requested that the regional commissions be involved in carrying out evaluation of the pilots, which would be useful also to capture the regional dimension.

25. Members of the Board agreed that there would be no additional pilots before the intergovernmental debate and evaluations of current pilots had been completed. The positive lessons drawn from the eight existing pilots, consistent with the existing triennial comprehensive policy review and General Assembly resolutions, could be made more widely available, in particular to country teams. The Director-General of UNIDO offered to host a consultation in Vienna in 2008 to review the lessons learned from the process of the "One UN" pilot projects.

26. Those countries that were not pilots but wished to work together in the spirit of "Delivering as one" should be encouraged to do so. It was observed that country teams in some non-pilot countries were operating in a highly coherent manner already. It was suggested that, to fully capture all best practices, the initiative launched by the Deputy-Secretary-General should also survey non-pilot countries.

27. The Board expressed appreciation for the initiative of the Deputy-Secretary-General, and affirmed the importance of a quick assessment or stocktaking of the process, as well as of a more in-depth evaluation of the developmental results by UNEG.

28. In addition, CEB endorsed the scope and process for the evaluation by UNEG and encouraged UNDG as well as members in a position to do so to contribute to the funding of the evaluation.

B. Support to African development

29. With respect to the Africa Millennium Development Goals steering group, the Deputy Secretary-General indicated that the initiative had been launched by the Secretary-General in order to galvanize support for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed goals in Africa. It brought together senior leadership of key international financial institutions, the United Nations system and multilateral and regional organizations. It was being supported by a working group that met on 20 September under the chairmanship of the Deputy Secretary-General. The work would proceed in five thematic groups including health, education, agriculture and food security, infrastructure and statistical systems. The first main objective would be to draw up practical proposals to complement and support Millennium Development Goals-related activities by strengthening international mechanisms, resolving bottlenecks in existing ones and filling gaps. The five thematic working groups would be coordinated by organizations that had lead mandates. The second main objective was to identify

practical steps to improve aid predictability, and the third was to enhance support at the country level for improving policies for scaling up interventions to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. A set of 10 "phase one" countries had been identified, two of which were also "one UN" pilots.

30. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, referring to the regional consultation mechanism, indicated that it would serve as a useful support mechanism for the Millennium Development Goals steering and working groups. He indicated that the regional consultation mechanism process in the Economic Commission for Africa region involved the African Union and New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Secretariats, in addition to the United Nations system. While trends in growth, peace and security, and governance in Africa were positive, major challenges remained. Job creation, HIV/AIDS, and acute effects of climate change in Africa were major sources of concern. Gaps remained between promises and delivery of aid. Equally, promises of the peer review mechanism remained only partially met due to a lack of follow-up mechanisms. Agriculture, water, natural resources and energy, sectors that employed the vast majority of Africans and which were directly related to environmental sustainability and climate change, continued to require the close attention of the United Nations system. In response to the appeal by African ministers, it was important to address the above challenges and assist them in adopting and implementing MDG-based national development strategies.

31. The members of CEB welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative in launching the Africa Millennium Development Goals steering and working groups and pledged their support for the process. It was important to fine-tune the message with respect to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals in Africa and distinguish between conflict and post-conflict countries and those stable countries where the chances of achieving the goals were much higher. Several agencies had developed major initiatives related to African development, such as in the area of air transport safety, Information and Communications Technology/telecommunications and shipping. The steering and working groups would need to make best use of the extensive body of analytical work which had already been undertaken with respect to Africa. Work by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, including on external debt, official development assistance and aid effectiveness, foreign direct investment and domestic resource mobilization and commodity dependence, were cited as examples. CEB members also drew attention to the relevance of other existing processes, such as those related to climate observations for development needs in Africa, and highlighted the regional and subregional dimensions of the problems facing the continent. The Connect Africa Summit being held in Rwanda the following week to promote Information and Communications Technology deployment, organized by the International Telecommunication Union, the World Bank and others, was mentioned as a means to promote development in Africa through partnerships with the private sector.

32. It was understood that all CEB members could contribute and play a critical role in the initiative. They were welcome to participate in any of the five thematic groups relevant to their work, including leading the thematic groups (such as FAO, with respect to agriculture and food security). The thematic groups were requested to share their draft workplans with the members of the Millennium Development Goals Africa working group. The Deputy Secretary-General would be sharing further information in this respect with members through the CEB Secretariat. At

the country and regional levels, team leaders were being encouraged to coordinate with the relevant programmes and agencies. At United Nations Headquarters, the Director of the Africa Bureau of UNDP was coordinating work on behalf of the UNDG. Work undertaken by other inter-agency coordinating mechanisms in support of NEPAD, such as the regional consultation mechanisms, would also inform the activities of the steering and working groups.

C. Leading by example: a climate-neutral United Nations

33. The Secretary-General recalled that he had pledged, on World Environment Day (5 June 2007), to explore ways of making the United Nations more climate-friendly and environmentally sustainable, and to develop a climate-neutral approach to its premises and operations. His policy committee had tasked the Environmental Management Group, under the leadership of the Executive Director of UNEP, with carrying out a study on how best to make the United Nations climate-neutral. He added that, while the principle of this approach was widely shared, and while he had received a number of positive signals for financial support from Member States, there was as yet a need for greater precision on the practical aspects of its implementation.

34. The Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme provided a report on the work of the Environmental Management Group, and introduced a draft policy statement for approval by CEB, as well as a strategy paper providing analytical support to the statement (attachment A-annexes 3 and 4). In doing so, he noted the importance of the United Nations leading by example. He was of the view that the initiative was both symbolically important and administratively possible, and that the steps envisaged made economic sense.

35. He added that since the launch of the initiative, two meetings had taken place, hosted by the World Bank and WHO, where agreement had been reached on the need for a framework to guide the work, a strategic approach on how to achieve a climate-neutral United Nations and a commitment from all agencies to implement the initiative. The objective by the end of 2007 was to assess emissions, start to reduce and manage these emissions and assess the cost and budgetary implications of offsetting emissions from activities that could not be changed. He suggested that once the initial assessments had been undertaken, a strategy should be presented to CEB recommending a date by which the whole of the United Nations should become climate-neutral. He announced that he would set up a small unit in UNEP as a clearing house to provide organizations with support in managing the process. UNEP itself was committed to becoming climate-neutral by 2008.

36. In the subsequent discussion, the Secretary-General was congratulated for his initiative. Organizations took the opportunity to outline their individual contributions to climate neutrality. In particular, the following points were raised:

(a) An accelerated strategy has been agreed for the Capital Master Plan, to bring each stage forward and also aiming to reduce energy consumption at the United Nations Headquarters compound in New York by at least 40 per cent. The private sector has been invited to donate its best technology to the United Nations;

(b) UNEP has been requested to assist in an environmental audit of United Nations Headquarters in New York, covering procurement and renovations;

(c) International Civil Aviation Organization would recommend and make available methodology for calculating emissions from air travel; its proposal would shortly be submitted to its Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection;

(d) To be successful, the initiative has to have the full and personal commitment of all executive heads. It should proceed along the lines of "promise less and deliver more", with efforts being put into delivering the initiative first before publicizing it. Executive heads should set the standard;

(e) Staff associations in a number of organizations were spearheading efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, recycle and lower paper consumption. The initiative would also stimulate staff members to make small changes in their offices and homes that would be climate-friendly.

37. **The Board agreed to endorse the draft statement, and it requested the Environmental Management Group to provide it, through the High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on Management, with progress reports.**

III. Management issues

A. Harmonization of United Nations system business practices

38. The Secretary-General underlined the importance of having administrative and management procedures that are effective, transparent and harmonized. This had been one of the priorities he had pursued since taking office, and he believed that the proposal before the Board greatly advanced that objective. There was an increasing demand from the international community for effective and efficient United Nations system operations, and the executive heads should do their best to respond.

39. The Vice-Chair of the High-level Committee on Management introduced the report of the Committee, outlining the response to the agreement by the Board at its last meeting to develop a plan of action for the harmonization of business practices across the United Nations system.

40. The Committee subsequently elaborated a package of proposals, driven by the strong belief that improved business practices played an essential role in delivering better programmatic results and were, therefore, an important part of United Nations reform.

41. The proposals developed by the Committee addressed a number of key areas, covering all the major management functions of United Nations system organizations: human resources, information and communications technology, and finance and budget. Initiatives for common action on procurement and legal matters were also expected to be added to the plan. The goal was to have some of the proposals completed in as little as eight months, with the most complex ones taking two to three years to be finalized.

42. The financing of the proposals would be arranged through extrabudgetary funding and would not, initially, be charged to the budgets of any United Nations system organization. However, once the feasibility studies and pilot work were

completed, follow-up action would be mainstreamed into the work of the organizations.

43. Taken together, the proposed activities represented a new level of commitment by the organizations of the United Nations system for a realignment and harmonization of business practices to respond to the new political demand for a coherent and effective United Nations system.

44. The Board welcomed the proposed plan of action for harmonization and reform of the business practices in the United Nations system and its methodological framework and endorsed the plan of action developed by the Committee, as well as follow-up action and implementation modalities recommended by it, as outlined in its report in paragraphs 35 to 49.

B. Disclosure of information contained in internal audit reports

45. The Board had before it a position paper prepared by the Internal Audit Services of the United Nations System, in consultation with the Finance and Budget Network, the Panel of External Auditors and the Institute of Internal Auditors.

46. The paper noted the difficulty of developing a "fit-for-all" disclosure policy, and proposed three options for consideration by CEB, contained in paragraph 22 of the annotated agenda. Option 3 provided for disclosure to Member States, subject to conditions and criteria defined within the context of an organization policy that should not be applied retroactively. This option was recommended by the Internal Audit Services as potentially offering the most appropriate solution. It was further recommended that executive heads approach their respective governing bodies on this matter.

47. In light of the expectation of the international community for United Nations system organizations to be as accountable and as transparent as possible, the Board expressed support for the recommendation of the Internal Audit Service.

48. Board members recognized that the recommendation allowed for their governing bodies to adopt disclosure policies consistent with the need, for example, to preserve industrial secrets or other highly sensitive information contained in internal audit reports.

49. The Board stressed the importance of any disclosure policy incorporating adequate criteria to ensure that the human and legal rights of the staff were respected, especially in connection with information contained in internal audit reports that had to do with investigations. In this respect, guidance was sought from the organizations that were specialists in human and labour rights. Some Board members reiterated their concerns that the disclosure of internal audit reports could change the nature of the internal audit function, diluting its value as a vital management tool. The need to distinguish between internal and external audit and their separate functions, with a view to maintaining the overall balance in the organizations' control systems, was also stressed.

50. The Board endorsed recommendation of the disclosure of internal audit reports, as outlined in paragraphs 23 and 24 of attachment B-annex 2 to the annotated agenda, which provides for disclosure to Member States, respecting the management prerogatives of executive heads and subject to conditions and criteria

to be defined within the context of an organization policy that should not be applied retroactively.

51. The Board encouraged organizations already in a position to present options to their governing bodies to do so, taking into account the recommendation that option 3 offered the most appropriate solution to the issue of disclosure of internal audit reports.

C. Recent developments on ethics

52. The Board's considerations of ethics issues was deferred to the retreat part of the CEB session, allowing the Secretary-General to hold additional consultations with the United Nations funds and programmes to agree on a number of outstanding issues.

IV. Other matters

A. Proposal for a Secretary-General's initiative — A year-long United Nations system-wide human rights advocacy campaign

53. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights introduced a proposal for an initiative under the leadership of the Secretary-General for a year-long United Nations system-wide human rights advocacy campaign, to be launched on 10 December 2007 and to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

54. She had circulated an initial paper associating the work of the United Nations system with the Declaration and requested that organizations review it and situate their own work within its scope. She offered the assistance of her office to CEB members in developing their own celebrations and commemorations over the year, to demonstrate that the United Nations was embracing a human rights vision. Her office was also working closely with the Department of Public Information on a campaign entitled, "Dignity and justice for all of us".

55. She added that the Third Committee of the General Assembly had just adopted a resolution on "the international year of human rights learning".

56. The Director-General of UNESCO had submitted to its General Conference a plan of action for the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; this document would be circulated to CEB members.

57. The members of CEB warmly welcomed this initiative, noting the relevant work being undertaken with regard to Palestinian refugees, ethics and tourism, the rights of future generations, connectivity and human security. It was pointed out that lack of human security was a root cause of the eventual acquisition of weapons of mass destruction. The Presidents of Germany and the United Republic of Tanzania had launched "The Right to Food" as the theme of World Food Day on 16 October 2007, which would continue through 15 October 2008. It could form part of broader United Nations system contributions to the advocacy campaign. It was also suggested that the campaign might be expanded to include the related human rights instruments.

B. Dates of the spring 2008 and fall 2008 sessions

58. The Board confirmed that its spring session of 2008 would be held in Berne, hosted by the Universal Postal Union (UPU). The dates for the spring session would be finalized by the Secretariat in consultation with the Board members.

Annex I

Chief Executives Board for Coordination

Statement of Chief Executives Board for Coordination

The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) meeting on 27 Octobe under the leadership of the Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, expressed its serious concern over the recent number of violent attacks against humanitarian workers and United Nations staff operating in various regions of the world.

The Chief Executives Board called upon all Member States of the United Nations to renew their commitment to the protection of humanitarian workers and to ensure safe and unhindered access to all people in need, in keeping with international law and humanitarian principles.

The Board expressed its full support to all those United Nations staff involved in essential work across the world and its condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives in pursuit of their noble mission.

CEB members

United Nations — Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General

International Labour Organization — Juan Somavía, Director-General

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations — Jacques Diouf, Director-General

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization — Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General

International Civil Aviation Organization — Taïeb Chérif, Secretary-General

World Health Organization — Margaret Chan, Director-General

World Bank — Robert Zoellick, President

International Monetary Fund — Rodrigo de Rato y Figaredo, Managing Director

Universal Postal Union — Edouard Dayan, Director-General

International Telecommunication Union — Hamadoun I. Touré, Secretary-General

World Meteorological Organization — Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General

International Maritime Organization — Efthimios E. Mitropoulos, Secretary-General

World Intellectual Property Organization — Kamil Idris, Director General

International Fund for Agricultural Development — Lennart Båge, President

United Nations Industrial Development Organization — Kandeh Yumkella, Director-General

International Atomic Energy Agency — Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General

World Trade Organization — Pascal Lamy, Director-General

World Tourism Organization — Francesco Frangialli, Secretary-General

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development — Supachai Panitchpakdi, Director-General

United Nations Environment Programme — Achim Steiner, Executive Director

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees — António Guterres, High Commissioner for Refugees

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East — Karen Koning AbuZayd, Commissioner-General

United Nations Development Programme — Kemal Dervis, Administrator

World Food Programme — Josette Sheeran, Executive Director

United Nations Children's Fund — Ann M. Veneman, Executive Director

United Nations Population Fund — Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime — Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director

United Nations Human Settlements Programme — Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Executive Director

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights — Louise Arbour, High Commissioner for Human Rights

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS — Peter Piot, Executive Director

United Nations University — Konrad Osterwalder, Rector

Annex II

Chief Executives Board for Coordination

Statement of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination

Moving towards a climate-neutral United Nations

Having taken note of the report[1] entitled "Strategy for a climate-neutral United Nations" prepared by the Environment Management Group;

Conscious of the need for our broader engagement to integrate the principles of sustainable development into our daily work routines and activities;

Recognizing that leading by example will contribute to the ability of the United Nations to better support developing countries — those most vulnerable to climate change;

Commending efforts by those who have already taken initiatives to offset their emissions before the adoption of this common approach; and

Noting that there can be significant cost savings to the United Nations from energy efficiency and other mitigation measures;

We, the Heads of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, hereby *commit* ourselves to moving our respective organizations towards climate neutrality in our headquarters and United Nations centres for our facility operations and travel.

In particular, by the end of 2009 we will:

- Estimate our greenhouse gas emissions consistent with accepted international standards;
- Undertake efforts to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to the extent possible;
- Analyse the cost implications and explore budgetary modalities — including consulting with governing bodies as needed — of purchasing carbon offsets to eventually reach climate neutrality.

We make this commitment with a view to achieving the goal of climate neutrality at a date to be set in the future, by reducing emissions first and then offsetting the remainder through the purchase of offsets from the Clean Development Mechanism, that meet high international standards of additionality, transparency and verification and which promote sustainable development in developing countries.

We support the further development and implementation of a United Nations system-wide strategy for reaching climate neutrality; for monitoring our collective efforts; and for reporting back on progress made and difficulties encountered.

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[1] EMG/AM 07/06/Rev.2